

Message Text

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61

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 MBFR-04 SAJ-01 NIC-01 DRC-01

/135 W

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R 031550Z OCT 73

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2483

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 1711

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, WB, GW, UR

SUBJECT: SENATOR FOR FEDERAL AFFAIRS CRITICIZES WEHNER

REF: BERLIN 1697

1. UPON RETURNING FROM U.S. VISIT OCTOBER 1, SENATOR FOR FEDERAL AFFAIRS DIETRICH STOBBE? GAVE INTERVIEW CONCERNING WEHNER INCIDENT. ALTHOUGH STOBBE'S SUBSTANTIVE CRITICISM OF SPD FRAKTION LEADER WAS LESS SHARP THAN THAT OF GOVERNING MAYOR SCHUETZ (REFTEL), HE DID NOT MINCE WORDS IN TAKING WEHNER TO TASK FOR WAY HE HANDLED BERLIN ISSUE IN MOSCOW.

2. STOBBE TOLD PRESS THAT "FORM" IN WHICH WEHNER MADE HIS REMARKS WAS "UNREASONABLE" AND NOT ONLY INFLAMED OLD LEGAL ARGUMENTS THAT HAD BEEN PUT TO REST BY QA BUT ALSO "CREATED A MINOR CONFRONTATION WHICH DOES BERLIN NO GOOD." AT SAME TIME, STOBBE SAID HE AGREED WITH WEHNER THAT ONE SHOULD NOT UNREASONABLY
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EXPECT TOO MUCH FROM QA. STOBBE ALSO USED INTERVIEW

TO EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF BERLIN TIES
WITH FRG, E.G., MOVE OF FEDERAL ENVIRONMENT OFFICE
TO BERLIN.

3. IN CONVERSATION WITH MISSION OFFICER OCT 2, STOBBE
SAID HE FELT INTERVIEWS SUCH AS THAT HE HAD JUST GIVEN
COULD SERVE PURPOSE OF DAMPENING DOWN DEBATE, WHICH
HE FELT WAS IN INTEREST OF SPD AND BERLIN. HE DID
NOT THINK WEHNER'S STATEMENT SIGNALLED BASIC CHANGE
IN FRG POLICY CONCERNING BERLIN QUESTION. HE SAID
WEHNER'S REMARKS, WHICH COMPLETELY SURPRISED BRANDT,
MIGHT HAVE BEEN RESULT OF WEHNER'S ANGER WITH SCHEEL
AND FEELING THAT SOVIETS WERE GENUINELY WORRIED ABOUT
FRG INTERPRETATION OF QA. ACCORDING TO STOBBE, THERE
REMAINED ROOM FOR COMPROMISE ON CONSULAR-REPRESENTATION
ISSUE IF IT COULD BE TAKEN OUT OF PUBLIC DEBATE AND
MOVED BACK INTO DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS.KLEIN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: willialc
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BERLIN01711
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS KLEIN
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731055/aaaabobc.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BERLIN 1697
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: willialc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01-Aug-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <20-Nov-2001 by willialc>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SENATOR FOR FEDERAL AFFAIRS CRITICIZES WEHNER
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, WB, GE, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005